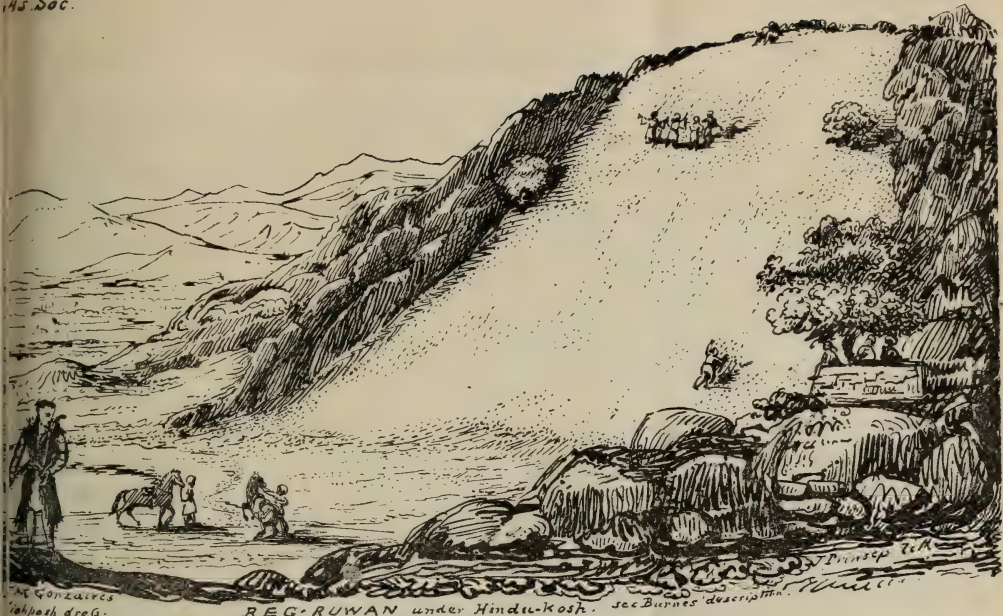


but owing to the numerous changes that have taken place in consequence of fresh conquests and usurpations. A scientific and clever traveller who would penetrate into these vast and almost unknown countries would render a great service to science.

V.—*On the Reg-Ruwan or moving sand, a singular phenomenon of sound near Cabúl with a sketch. By Capt. ALEX. BURNES.*

In the vicinity of *Cabúl* there is a phenomenon similar to what occurs at *Jabal Nakous*, or the sounding mountain, near *Tor* in the Red Sea. It is called *Reg-Ruwan* or the moving sand, and is thus described by the emperor *BABER*. "Between these plains there is a small hill in which there is a line of sandy ground, reaching from the top to the bottom of the hill. They called it *Khwája Reg-Ruwan*. They say that in the summer season the sound of drums and nagarets issues from this sand." The place has been seldom visited, being in the *Kohistan* or troubled part of the country, but the power of the present chief of *Cabúl* has subdued the rebellious tribes near, and an opportunity was thus afforded us of visiting it, which we did in October last.

The description of *BABER* above given, though it appears marvellous, is accurate; *Reg-Ruwan* is about forty miles north of *Cabúl* towards *Hindu, kosh* and near the base of the mountains. Two ridges of hills, detached from the rest, run in and meet each other; at the apex of this, a sheet of sand, as pure as that on the sea shore, with a slope of about  $40^\circ$ , forms the face of a hill to its summit, which is about 400 feet high. When this sand is set in motion by a body of people, who slide down it, a sound is emitted. On the first trial we distinctly heard two loud, hollow sounds such as would be given by a large drum. On two subsequent attempts we heard nothing, so that perhaps the sand requires to be for a time settled before the curiosity is displayed. There is an echo in the place, and the inhabitants have a belief that the sounds are only heard on Friday when the saint of *Reg-Ruwan*, who is interred hard by, permits! The locality of the sand is remarkable, there being none other in the neighbourhood. *Reg-Ruwan* faces the south but the wind of *Purwan* (*badi Purwan*) blows from the north for the greater part of the year, and has probably deposited it by an eddy. Such is the violence of this wind that all the trees in the neighbourhood bend to the south, and a field, after a few years, requires to be recleared of the pebbles and stones which the loss of soil lays bare. The mountains here are generally composed of granite or mica, but at *Reg-Ruwan* we had sandstone, lime, slate and quartz.



At Gonzalez's  
Tahosh dreg.

REG. RUWAN under Hindu-kosh. see Burnes description.

(The storm came on from Dumdum, NW of this point)



Sketch  
of the progress  
of the  
WHIRLWIND  
on the  
8th April 1838

Reduced from a plan  
by Mr. Plover  
B.P.